CLAIMS

1.   An image description system comprising:
a feature extracting unit extracting layout
features from respective of frames of an image
sequence; and
a representative feature calculating unit
calculating a representative layout feature
representative of said image sequence from a group
of said layout features extracted by said feature
extracting unit.

2.   An image description system comprising:
a feature extracting unit extracting layout
features from respective of frames of an image
sequence;
a representative feature calculating unit
calculating a representative layout feature
representative of said image sequence from a group
of said layout features extracted by said feature
extracting unit; and
a representative layout feature storage unit
storing said representative layout feature
calculated by said representative feature
calculating unit.

3.   An image description system comprising:
a feature extracting unit extracting layout
features from respective of frames of an image

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sequence;

a representative feature calculating unit calculating a representative layout feature representative of said image sequence from a group

5 of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting unit;

a representative layout feature storage unit storing said representative layout feature calculated by said representative feature

10 calculating unit; and

a layout feature group storage unit storing said group of layout features calculated by said feature extracting unit.

15 4. The image description system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein said representative feature calculating unit calculates average values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted

20 by said feature extracting unit as a representative feature.

5. The image description system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

25 wherein said representative feature calculating unit rearranges values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit in any of ascending order

and descending order, and calculates a median as a representative feature.

6.   The image description system according to any
5   one of claims 1 to 5,
       wherein said layout feature is a color layout information.

7.   The image description system according to any
10 one of claims 1 to 5,
       wherein said layout feature is an edge histogram information.

8.   The image description system according to any
15 one of claims 1 to 7,
       wherein said representative feature is described based on a description scheme in which said representative feature is selectable from a plurality of features including at least
20 ColorLayout and EdgeHistogram, and a representative feature calculating method is selectable from a plurality of methods including at least Average and Median.

25 9.   An image description software product executable on a computer realizing:
       a feature extracting function for extracting layout features from respective of·frames of an

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image sequence; and

a representative feature calculating
function for calculating a layout feature
representative of said image sequence from a group
5 of said layout features extracted by said feature
extracting function.

10. An image description method comprising:
a feature extracting step for extracting
10 layout features from respective of frames of an
image sequence; and
a representative feature calculating step
for calculating a layout feature representative of
said image sequence from a group of said layout
15 features extracted in said feature extracting step.

11. An image identification system comprising:
a representative layout feature storage unit
storing a layout feature representative of an image
20 sequence as a representative layout feature; and
an image sequence selecting unit selecting an
image sequence which resembles a query image
sequence by comparing said representative layout
feature of said query image sequence stored in said
25 representative layout feature storage unit with
said representative layout feature of a registered
image sequence stored in said representative layout
feature storage unit.

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12.   An image identification system comprising:

a representative layout feature storage unit storing a layout feature representative of an image

5 sequence as a representative layout feature;

a feature extracting unit extracting layout features from respective of frames of a query image sequence;

a representative feature calculating unit

10 calculating a representative layout feature representative of said query image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting unit; and

an image sequence selecting unit selecting a

15 sequence which resembles said query image sequence by comparing said representative layout feature calculated by said representative feature calculating unit with said representative layout feature stored in said representative layout

20 feature storage unit.

13.   An image identification system comprising:

a representative layout feature storage unit storing a layout feature representative of an image

25 sequence as a representative layout feature;

a layout feature group storage unit storing layout features associated with respective of frames of said image sequence;

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a feature extracting unit extracting layout features from respective of frames of a query image sequence;

a representative feature calculating unit calculating a representative layout feature representative of said query image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting unit;

an image sequence selecting unit selecting an image sequence which resembles said query image sequence by comparing said representative layout feature calculated by said representative feature calculating unit with said representative layout feature stored in said representative layout feature storage unit; and

an identification unit matching said group of layout features extracted by said layout feature extracting unit against said layout features stored in said layout feature group as to said image sequence selected by said image sequence selecting unit.

14. The image identification system according to claim 12 or 13,

wherein said representative feature calculating unit calculates average values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit as a representative

feature.

15.   The image identification system according to claim 12 or 13,

5   wherein said representative feature calculating unit rearranges values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit in any of ascending order or descending order, and calculates a median as a

10   representative feature.

16.   The image identification system according to any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein said layout feature is a color layout

15   information.

17.   The image identification system according to any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein said layout feature is an edge

20   histogram information.

18.   The image identification system according to any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein said representative feature is

25   described based on a description scheme in which said representative feature is selectable from a plurality of features including at least ColorLayout and EdgeHistogram, and a representative

feature calculating method is selectable from a
plurality of methods including at least Average and
Median.

5 19.   An image identification software product
executable on a computer realizing:
        a storage function for storing a layout
feature representative of an image sequence as a
representative layout feature in a storage function
10 of said computer; and
        a selection function for selecting an image
sequence which resembles a query image sequence by
comparing said representative layout feature of
said query image sequence stored by said storage
15 function with said representative layout feature of
a registered image sequence stored by said storage
function.

20.   An image identification method comprising:
20   a storing step for storing a layout feature
representative of an image sequence as a
representative layout feature; and
        an image sequence selecting step for
selecting an image sequence which resembles a query
25 image sequence by comparing said representative
layout feature of said query image sequence stored
in said storing step with said representative layout
feature of a registered image sequence stored in

said storing step.

21.   A description scheme for describing a feature
of an image sequence,

5   wherein a representative feature is
selectable from a plurality of features including
at least ColorLayout and EdgeHistogram, and a
representative feature calculating method is
selectable from a plurality of methods including at
10   least Average and Median.